

March 6, 2022

Date of Hearing March 8, 2022

Name of Bill: [S.B. NO.17 - An Act Prohibiting an Institution of Higher Education from Withholding Transcripts.](#)

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Representative Josh Elliot, Senator Derek Slap and dear members of the Higher Education And Employment Advancement Committee.

My name is Luis Luna, and I live in New Haven Connecticut. I am organizer with the Connecticut Working Families Party, and member of Student Loan Fund Borrowers Collective

I stand in support of S.B. 17: An Act Prohibiting An Institution Of Higher Education From Withholding Transcripts because I believe that no one should be punished for having student debt.

When I entered college, I was a low-income, immigrant student, and took out loans to reach my goals of achieving a Bachelor's degree. Unfortunately, due to financial pressures and family issues, I was unable to complete my degree and was left with student loans that have followed me throughout my career, now totalling over \$100,000. This debt has made it difficult for me to live a full life and give back to my community, let alone re-enroll in college to finish my degree.

I joined the Student Loan Fund Borrowers Collective because I wanted to change the predatory systems of student debt and higher education financing that disproportionately impact people of color and first-generation students like myself.

Transcript withholding is an unjust and arbitrary practice that prevents students with debt from continuing their education, transferring credits, and obtaining the employment needed to repay their debts. This is a practice we can - and must - end in CT.

I urge this committee to consider the urgency of this bill and the impact that this legislation will have with students like myself. I thank the committee for introducing this important bill. We are especially grateful for the leadership of Senator Lesser, Representatives Turco, Paris, and Kavros Degraw on student debt-related issues.

Thank you for you time,
Luis Luna